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## ABSTRACT

This instructor's manual contains materials needed to teach a two-lesson unit on activated bio-filters (ABF). These materials include: (1) an overview of the two lessons; (2) lesson plans; (3) lecture outlines (keyed to a set of slides designed for use with the lessons); (4) overhead transparency masters; (5) worksheets for each lesson (with answers); and (6) two copies of a final quiz (with and without answers). The first lesson (the sewage treatment plant) examines those process units that are unique to the ABF system. The lesson includes a review of the structural components of ABF system and their functions and a discussion of several operational modes and the conditions under which they might be used. The second lesson covers the operation of ABF systems. The laboratory tests recommended for influent and effluent monitoring are presented and related to the factors affecting biomass growth. Calculations regarding food-to-microorganism (F/M) ratio and mean cell residence time (MCRT) are presented and practiced. Plant observations and monitoring are discussed with an emphasis on awareness and identification of existing and potential problems. Some operational problems are also presented with recommended corrective measures.  
(JN)

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# Biological Treatment Process Control

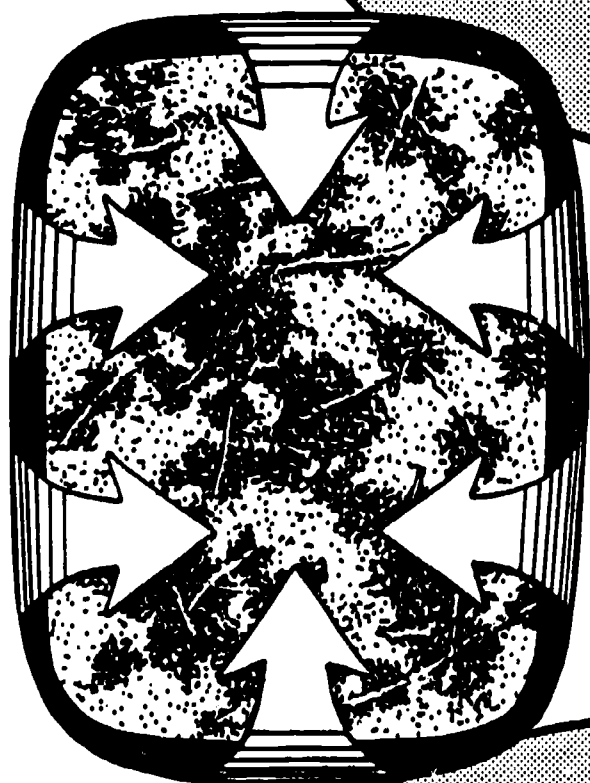
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## Activated Biological Filters (ABF Towers)



### Instructor's Guide

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**Linn-Benton Community College**  
**Albany, Oregon**  
**1984**

BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT PROCESS CONTROL

ACTIVATED BIO-FILTERS

INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL

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# ACTIVATED BIO-FILTER

## Instructor's Guide

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## ABF SYSTEMS

### Overview of Lessons

This unit of Activated Bio-filters can be divided into two lessons. Lesson I, The Sewage Treatment Plant, covers those process units that are unique to the ABF system. In this lesson a review of the structural components of the ABF system and their functions will be covered. Since this is an intermediate course, the review might emphasize how the components relate to plant operation. Operational modes are discussed with a look at each mode and under what conditions it might be used.

Lesson II covers the operation of ABF systems. The laboratory tests recommended for influent and effluent monitoring are presented and related to the factors affecting biomass growth. Calculations regarding F/M ratios and MCRT are presented and practiced. Plant observations and monitoring are discussed with an emphasis on awareness and identification of existing and potential problems. Finally, some operational problems are presented with corrective measures recommended.

## Lesson Plans

### Lesson I. The Sewage Treatment Plant

- The Plant
- Unique Components
- The ABF Process
- Alternate Process Modes
- \* Have students read material ahead of time if possible.
- \* Lecture from outline with slide support.
- \* Add additional slides to emphasize areas of particular interest.
- \* Recommended length - 30 min.

### Lesson II. Methods of Process Control

- F/M Ratio
- MCRT
- Bulking Sludge
- Nutrient Deficiency
- Process Monitoring
- \* Again, assign reading ahead of time.
- \* Lecture from outline with slide and overhead support.
- \* Assign work sheet; allow 20-30 min. to do problems; explain and correct problems.
- \* Return to outline and slides.
- \* Assign Final Test.
- \* Recommended length - 60-75 min.

### Other Suggestions

- \* Demonstration items such as types of media, orifice nozzles, etc., can be used.
- \* Set up microscope to view organisms; have fresh sample from reactor media with organisms on display.
- \* Collect samples of raw, primary, reactor, and secondary effluent in jars to display characteristics.
- \* Have samples of trend charts for process indicator plotting.

# ACTIVATED BIO-FILTERS

## Lecture Outline

### Lesson I - The Plant

ABF 1 & 2	Credit Slides
ABF 3	ABF Plant
ABF 4	ABF Plant
ABF 5	Unique Components <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Lath media</li><li>- Distribution arm</li><li>- Reactor wet well</li></ul>
ABF 6	Fixed Film <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Aerobic growth</li><li>- Anaerobic growth</li><li>- Sloughing</li></ul>
ABF 7	Suspended Growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Short-term aeration</li></ul>
ABF 8	Conventional Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Advantages</li><li>- Disadvantages</li></ul>

### Lesson II - Process Control

ABF 3	The Process
ABF 9	Alternate Modes
ABF 10	Alternate Modes
ABF 11	Alternate Modes
ABF 12	Alternate Modes
ABF 13	Alternate Modes
ABF 14-15	Process Control F/M Ratio

ABF 16-17	Process Control
	MCRT
Overhead #1	F/M Ratio
Overhead #2	lbs. Food
Overhead #3	lbs. MLSS
Overhead #4	MCRT
ABF 18-19	Process Control
	Wasting & D.O. Control
ABF 20	Bulking Sludge & Nutrient Deficiency
ABF 21	Solids Inventory
ABF 22-25	Review



$$F = \text{LBS FOOD} = Q_{\text{MGD}} \times \text{PRI EFF BOD}_{\text{MG/L}} \times 8.34$$

$$M = \text{LBS VSS} = \text{AERATION VOL}_{\text{MG}} \times \text{MLVSS}_{\text{MG/L}} \times 8.34$$

$$M = \text{LBS MLSS} = \text{AERATION VOL}_{\text{MG}} \times \text{MLSS}_{\text{MG/L}} \times 8.34$$

$$\text{MCRT} = \frac{\text{LBS MLVSS IN AERATION BASIN}}{\text{LBS MLVSS WASTED PER DAY}}$$

$$\text{F/M RATIO} = \frac{\text{LBS FOOD/DAY}}{\text{LBS MLSS}}$$

## THE ABF SYSTEM

### Answers to Worksheet #1

1. The reactor wet well:

- ☒ a. is a pumping station
- ☐ b. has fixed film growth
- ☐ c. collects only final effluent
- ☐ d. is a settling basin

2. Increases in bacterial populations can be measured as:

- ☐ a. increased flow
- ☐ b. higher influent BOD
- ☒ c. increased mixed liquor suspended solids
- ☐ d. increased D.O.

3. The reactor is:

- ☐ a. the area where suspended growth organisms are growing
- ☐ b. essentially a settling basin
- ☐ c. where the return sludge is collected
- ☒ d. the fixed film portion of the ABF system

4. Fixed film bacteria utilize the food from:

- ☒ a. the waste stream
- ☐ b. the final effluent
- ☐ c. the return sludge
- ☐ d. the settling basin

5. Oxygen transfer in the ABF system is a result of:

- ☐ a. air provided by a blower
- ☒ b. splashing action
- ☐ c. settling sludge
- ☐ d. fluctuating flow



6. ABF mixed liquor is composed of:

- ☐ a. raw influent and final effluent
- ☐ b. fixed film organisms
- ☒ c. suspended growth and sloughed fixed film organisms
- ☐ d. only suspended growth organisms

7. These organisms:

- ☐ a. must be wasted
- ☒ b. absorb, oxidize and metabolize organic food
- ☐ c. increase the BOD in the waste stream
- ☐ d. are nuisance organisms

8. Material is spread over the surface of the ABF media by:

- ☐ a. blowers
- ☒ b. fixed or rotary distribution systems
- ☐ c. ponding
- ☐ d. settling

9. An alternate process mode has the:

- ☒ a. reactor effluent going directly to the secondary clarifier
- ☐ b. sludge all returned to the head works of the plant
- ☐ c. sludge wasted in total
- ☐ d. return sludge wasted

10. The ABF system can be operated:

- ☒ a. like a high rate trickling filter followed by short term aeration
- ☐ b. without sludge return
- ☐ c. without influent BOD as food
- ☐ d. at 100% efficiency

11. When the ABF system is used as a roughing filter:

- ☐ a. sludge is not returned
- ☒ b. there is no tower reactor
- ☐ c. the reactor wet well is by-passed
- ☐ d. there is no aeration in the cycle

## THE ABF SYSTEM

### Answers to Worksheet #2

1. F/M ratio stands for:

- ☐ a. flow and management ratio
- ☐ b. flow to mass ratio
- ☒ c. food to microorganism ratio
- ☐ d. force to measure ratio

2. MCRT stands for:

- ☒ a. mean cell retention time
- ☐ b. mass concentration return time
- ☐ c. mixed liquor concentration return time
- ☐ d. microorganism concentration respiration transport

3. In the ABF system, the F/M ratio usually is in excess of:

- ☐ a. 0.1
- ☒ b. 1.0
- ☐ c. 10.0
- ☐ d. 0.01

4. MCRT in the ABF system is usually:

- ☒ a. 1.5 to 3 days
- ☐ b. 15 to 30 days
- ☐ c. 0.15 to 0.3 days
- ☐ d. 30 to 45 days

5. Given the following data for an ABF plant calculate the F/M ratio.

Avg. Flow	=	1 MGD
Primary Eff. BOD	=	150 mg/l
MLSS	=	3,500 mg/l
MLVSS	=	2,800 mg/l
Aeration Volume	=	0.045 MG

- ☐ a. 0.019
- ☐ b. 0.19
- ☒ c. 1.19
- ☐ d. 2.19

6. Using the data in problem 5, calculate waste sludge volume:

- ☐ a. 4,955 gpd
- ☐ b. 5,955 gpd
- ☒ c. 6,955 gpd
- ☐ d. 7,955 gpd

7. Using the same data, calculate MCRT.

- ☒ a. 0.26 days
- ☐ b. 1.26 days
- ☐ c. 2.26 days
- ☐ d. 3.26 days

8. The normal range for the MCRT in the short-term aeration basin of an ABF system is between:

- ☐ a. 0.15 to 0.3 days
- ☒ b. 1.5 to 3.0 days
- ☐ c. 3.0 to 4.5 days
- ☐ d. 15 to 30 days

9. The odor of ABF mixed liquor is:

- ☐ a. stronger than conventional A.S.
- ☐ b. fainter than conventional A.S.
- ☒ c. the same as conventional A.S.
- ☐ d. none of the above

ACTIVATED BIO-FILTER  
(ABF)

Final Quiz

Matching: Choose the correct answer and place an "X" in the corresponding space.

1. The reactor wet well:

- ☐ a. is a pumping station
- ☐ b. has fixed film growth
- ☐ c. collects only final effluent
- ☐ d. is a settling basin

2. Increases in bacterial populations can be measured as:

- ☐ a. increased flow
- ☐ b. higher influent BOD
- ☐ c. increased mixed liquor suspended solids
- ☐ d. increased D.O.

3. The reactor is:

- ☐ a. the area where suspended growth organisms are growing
- ☐ b. essentially a settling basin
- ☐ c. where the return sludge is collected
- ☐ d. the fixed film portion of the ABF system

4. Fixed film bacteria utilize the food from:

- ☐ a. the waste stream
- ☐ b. the final effluent
- ☐ c. the return sludge
- ☐ d. the settling basin

5. Oxygen transfer in the ABF system is a result of:

- ☐ a. air provided by a blower
- ☐ b. splashing action
- ☐ c. settling sludge
- ☐ d. fluctuating flow

6. ABF mixed liquor is composed of:
- ☐ a. raw influent and final effluent
  - ☐ b. fixed film organisms
  - ☐ c. suspended growth and sloughed fixed film organisms
  - ☐ d. only suspended growth organisms
7. These organisms:
- ☐ a. must be wasted
  - ☐ b. absorb, oxidize and metabolize organic food
  - ☐ c. increase the BOD in the waste stream
  - ☐ d. are nuisance organisms
8. Material is spread over the surface of the ABF media by:
- ☐ a. blowers
  - ☐ b. fixed or rotary distribution systems
  - ☐ c. ponding
  - ☐ d. settling
9. An alternate process mode has the:
- ☐ a. reactor effluent going directly to the secondary clarifier
  - ☐ b. sludge all returned to the head works of the plant
  - ☐ c. sludge wasted in total
  - ☐ d. return sludge wasted
10. The ABF system can be operated:
- ☐ a. like a high rate trickling filter followed by short term aeration
  - ☐ b. without sludge return
  - ☐ c. without influent BOD as food
  - ☐ d. at 100% efficiency
11. When the ABF system is used as a roughing filter:
- ☐ a. sludge is not returned
  - ☐ b. there is no tower reactor
  - ☐ c. the reactor wet well is by-passed
  - ☐ d. there is no aeration in the cycle

12. F/M ratio stands for:

- ☐ a. flow and management ratio
- ☐ b. flow to mass ratio
- ☐ c. food to microorganism ratio
- ☐ d. force to measure ratio

13. MCRT stands for:

- ☐ a. mean cell retention time
- ☐ b. mass concentration return time
- ☐ c. mixed liquor concentration return time
- ☐ d. microorganism concentration respiration transport

14. In the ABF system, the F/M ratio usually is in excess of:

- ☐ a. 0.1
- ☐ b. 1.0
- ☐ c. 10.0
- ☐ d. 0.01

15. MCRT in the ABF system is usually:

- ☐ a. 1.5 to 3 days
- ☐ b. 15 to 30 days
- ☐ c. 0.15 to 0.3 days
- ☐ d. 30 to 45 days

16. Given the following data for an ABF plant calculate the F/M ratio.

Avg. Flow                = 1 MGD  
Primary Eff. BOD       = 130 mg/l  
MLSS                    = 3,000 mg/l  
MLVSS                  = 2,600 mg/l  
Aeration Volume       = 0.05 MG

- ☐ a. 0.3
- ☐ b. 0.1
- ☐ c. 1.0
- ☐ d. 3.2



17. Using the data in problem #16 and the following, calculate waste sludge volume:

Eff TSS = 18 mg/l  
Eff VSS = 15 mg/l  
Eff BOD = 16 mg/l  
Waste Sludge Conc (%) = 12,000 mg/l (1.2%)

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. 817 gpd  
\_\_\_\_\_ b. 5,600 gpd  
\_\_\_\_\_ c. 7,453 gpd  
\_\_\_\_\_ d. 9,207 gpd
18. Using the same data, calculate MCRT.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. 0.26 days  
\_\_\_\_\_ b. 1.2 days  
\_\_\_\_\_ c. 2.26 days  
\_\_\_\_\_ d. 3.26 days
19. The normal range for the MCRT in the short-term aeration basin of an ABF system is between:
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. 0.15 to 0.3 days  
\_\_\_\_\_ b. 1.5 to 3.0 days  
\_\_\_\_\_ c. 3.0 to 4.5 days  
\_\_\_\_\_ d. 15 to 30 days
20. The odor of ABF mixed liquor is:
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. stronger than conventional A.S.  
\_\_\_\_\_ b. fainter than conventional A.S.  
\_\_\_\_\_ c. the same as conventional A.S.  
\_\_\_\_\_ d. none of the above

ACTIVATED BIO-FILTER  
(ABF)

Answers to Final Quiz

Matching: Choose the correct answer and place an "X" in the corresponding space.

1. The reactor wet well:

- X   a. is a pumping station
- b. has fixed film growth
- c. collects only final effluent
- d. is a settling basin

2. Increases in bacterial populations can be measured as:

- a. increased flow
- b. higher influent BOD
- X   c. increased mixed liquor suspended solids
- d. increased D.O.

3. The reactor is:

- a. the area where suspended growth organisms are growing
- b. essentially a settling basin
- c. where the return sludge is collected
- X   d. the fixed film portion of the ABF system

4. Fixed film bacteria utilize the food from:

- X   a. the waste stream
- b. the final effluent
- c. the return sludge
- d. the settling basin

5. Oxygen transfer in the ABF system is a result of:

- a. air provided by a blower
- X   b. splashing action
- c. settling sludge
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6. ABF mixed liquor is composed of:

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